



Jan 29, 1951

My dear Senator Holland:

In compliance with your request at the hearing before your subcommittee on January 19, 1951, there is attached a list of executive agencies, or parts thereof, which will receive first consideration for location in buildings which a 40,000 personnel capacity to be constructed outside of, but in the vicinity of and accessible to, the District of Columbia.

In brief, it is contemplated that this first increment for dispersal would comprise approximately 15,000 positions in the civil establishment and 25,000 in the military.

You will note that the attached list does not identify the military functions to be dispersed. In a letter to me under date of January 26, 1951, the Deputy Secretary of Defense stated that while the Department has prepared a list of activities involving some 49,000 positions which should be dispersed, he is not yet in a position to select from among these the positions which should receive first priority for a limited amount of space. A copy of this list is attached for your information. His study to determine the definite activities which will be placed in the dispersal zone in the event Congress authorizes the program will be continued. He added that under full mobilization it is estimated that approximately 60,000 to 65,000 positions should and could be located in the dispersal area.

In the light of the above, it has been necessary to conduct an intensive screening of civil functions to be dispersed in order to provide maximum accommodations for the military in buildings with a 40,000 personnel capacity. Accordingly, the civil functions identified do not comprise a complete list of those which contribute substantially to the defense effort. They consist only of those the disruption of which in the event of attack would most seriously handicap effective continuation of essential operations. In many instances these functions involve the maintenance of invaluable records which could be replaced, if at all, only with great difficulty and long delay.

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In conclusion, your attention is invited to the fact that these findings are predicated upon plans for the permanent removal from the Washington area of about 25,000 positions — an increase of 17,000 over the estimated number to be decentralized as given to your Committee last December. With the adoption of the decentralization proposals, the dispersal program will permit the vacating of hazardous temporary wooden buildings and provide for the anticipated expansion of defense activities up to June 30, 1952. In the event of full mobilization, it is to be expected that dispersal requirements would be at least doubled.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) F. J. Lawton

Director

Honorable Spessard L. Holland
United States Senate
Washington 25, D. C.

Attachment